

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A dental appliance which is placed in a mouth of a user wherein the user has teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a length defined between a first end and a second end and having an occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth when the base is placed within the mouth wherein the base has an interior surface which substantially surrounds a surface of at least one of the teeth wherein the first end is made from a first material and the second end is made from a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein, and

~~a reline material in contact with the interior surface second material adheres wherein the reline material causes adhesion of the base to at least one of the teeth.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the interior surface is roughened.

4. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

5. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

a mark on the interior surface indicating an amount of the reline material in contact with the interior surface.

6. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

a socket formed within the interior surface wherein the socket is shaped to receive a tooth of the user.

7. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material.

8. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is sized to contact at least one tooth but not all teeth when the base is placed within the mouth.

9. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the ~~refine material~~ interior surface adheres to at least one of the teeth.

10. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base increases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

11. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:
lingual tabs adjacent to the occlusal surface wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is placed within the mouth.

12. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:
a shield extending from the occlusal surface wherein the shield covers the teeth when the base is placed within the mouth.

13. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

a wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the wall exerts a force against teeth when the base is placed within the mouth.

14. (Currently amended): A system of dental appliances wherein each of the dental appliances has a length defined between a first end and a second end and wherein each of the dental appliances is placed within the mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the system comprising:

a first dental appliance having a generally U-shaped upper base which contacts upper teeth of the user when the upper base is placed within the mouth;

a second dental appliance having a generally U-shaped lower base wherein the lower base contacts lower teeth of the user when the lower base is placed within the mouth and wherein the upper base is adjacent to the lower base and wherein the upper base and the lower base define an interior surface having a concave portion wherein the first dental appliance is made from a first material and a second material wherein the second dental appliance is made from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material; and

~~a reline material in contact with the concave portion wherein the reline material prevents the upper base and the lower base from sliding when placed within the mouth~~ a hinge connecting the second material of the upper base to the second material of the lower base

wherein the concave portion and the hinge prevent the upper base and the lower base from sliding when placed within the mouth.

15. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the upper base is placed in the mouth.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a shield extending from the concave portion wherein the shield covers the teeth when the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance are placed within the mouth.

19. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

an occlusal surface on the first dental appliance wherein the occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth when the first dental appliance is placed within the mouth wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

20. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 14 wherein the interior surface is roughened ~~further comprising:~~

~~a hinge connecting the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance.~~

21. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a socket formed within the first dental appliance wherein the socket is shaped to receive at least one of the teeth of the user.

22. (Original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the first dental appliance is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material.

23. (Original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance are sized to contact at least one but not all of the teeth when the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance are placed within the mouth.

24. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:
a substance located between one tooth of the user ~~the reline material~~ and the concave portion wherein the substance enables the ~~reline material to adhere to~~ to the concave portion to adhere to one tooth of the user.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the second dental appliance wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the second dental appliance is placed within the mouth.

27. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a length defined between a first and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed within a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth wherein the upper base and the lower base are made of a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the second material moves one of the teeth of the user;

a hinge insertable within the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge connects the upper base and the lower base; ~~and~~

~~a reline material in contact with the upper occlusal surface wherein the reline material prevents the upper base from sliding when placed within the mouth.~~

28. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the upper base is sized to contact teeth closest to an exterior of the mouth but does not contact teeth furthest within the mouth.

29. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a plurality of sockets within the upper base wherein each of the sockets are sized to receive a single tooth of the user.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

32. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the reline material is adjacent to the shield.

33. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a mark on the upper base indicating an amount of reline material in contact with the upper base.

34. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a socket formed within the upper base wherein the socket is shaped to receive two or more of the teeth of the user.

35. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a shield extending from the lower base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the lower base is placed in the mouth.

36. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the ~~reline material~~ upper occlusal surface adheres to the upper teeth.

37. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the lower base increases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

38. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

lingual tabs integrally formed with the lower base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the lower base is placed within the mouth.

39. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the upper ~~occlusal~~ occlusal surface and the lower ~~occlusal~~ occlusal surface are roughened ~~the upper base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material.~~

40. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a width defined between a first and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed in a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth;

a hinge integrally formed with the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge connects the upper base and the lower base wherein the upper occlusal surface adheres to one of the upper teeth and further wherein the lower occlusal surface moves one of the lower teeth; and

~~a reline material in contact with the upper occlusal surface wherein the reline material prevents the upper base from sliding when placed within the mouth.~~

41. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 further comprising:

~~wherein the reline material~~ a substance surrounding ~~surrounds~~ the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 further comprising:

a plurality of sockets wherein each of the plurality of sockets is shaped to receive a single tooth.

45. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

46. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper occlusal surface is roughened.

47. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 ~~further comprising:~~

~~a mark on the upper base indicating an amount of reline material in contact with the upper base~~ wherein the lower occlusal surface is roughened.

48. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper base is sized to contact teeth adjacent an exterior of the mouth but does not contact teeth furthest within the mouth.

49. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper base varies in rigidity from an exterior of the mouth to an interior of the mouth when the upper base is placed within the mouth.

50. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the ~~reline material adheres~~ hinge causes the upper base to adhere to the upper teeth.

51. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the lower base varies in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

52. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the hinge provides resistance against movement of the upper base toward the lower base.

53. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 ~~wherein the upper base is constructed from a first material and a second material~~ wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material.

54. (Currently amended): A method for treating a malocclusion of a user having a mouth having one or more teeth, the method comprising the steps of:

diagnosing the user with the malocclusion;

determining an amount of time the user is required to place the dental appliance within the mouth on a periodic basis wherein the dental appliance has a generally U-shaped base wherein the base is made from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material and further has a socket within the base sized to receive at least one or more teeth of the user wherein the socket is formed in the second material and further wherein the ~~dental appliance~~ socket corrects the malocclusion; and

wearing the dental appliance for less than the amount of time required while extending the periodic basis.

55. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 54 further comprising the step of:

~~depositing a reline material onto~~ adhering the dental appliance to at least one of the teeth of the user to prevent the dental appliance from slipping within the mouth when the dental appliance is placed within the mouth.

56. (Original): The method of Claim 54 further comprising the step of:

providing a second dental appliance after the malocclusion is treated wherein the second dental appliance acts as a retainer.

57. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a length defined between a first end and a second end wherein the dental appliance

is placed within a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth; and

a hinging mechanism insertable within the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinging mechanism connects the upper base and the lower base wherein the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface are roughened; and

~~a reline material in contact with the lower occlusal surface wherein the reline material prevents the lower base from sliding when placed within the mouth.~~

58. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

a slot formed within the upper occlusal surface wherein the slot is sized to receive two or more teeth.

59. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

a slot formed within the lower occlusal surface wherein the slot is sized to receive two or more teeth.

60. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the lower base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the lower base is placed within the mouth.

61. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 57 ~~wherein the lower occlusal surface is roughened~~ further comprising:

a socket formed in the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface wherein the socket is sized to receive one of the teeth of the user.

62. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 57 wherein the lower base increases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

63. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 57 wherein the upper base increases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

64. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a width defined between a first end and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed in a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth; and

a hinge integrally formed with the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge connects the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge provides resistance against movement of the upper base toward the lower base wherein the hinge, ~~and~~

~~a reline material in contact with the lower occlusal surface wherein the reline material prevents~~ the upper base and the lower base from sliding when placed within the mouth wherein the hinge attaches the lower base and the upper base to the mouth of the user.

65. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 64 further comprising:

one or more sockets within the upper base wherein at least one of the sockets is shaped to correspond to a shape of one of the teeth.

66. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 64 further comprising:

one or more sockets within the lower base wherein at least one of the sockets is shaped to correspond to a shape of one of the teeth.

67. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 64 wherein the hinge is more rigid than the upper base and the lower base.

68. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 64 further comprising:

a mark on the lower base indicating an amount of relined material in contact with the lower base.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 64 wherein the upper base and the lower base are sized to contact at least one tooth but not all teeth when the upper base and the lower base are placed within the mouth.

71. (Currently amended): A dental appliance which is placed in a mouth of a user having upper teeth to treat a malocclusion, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base which is sized to receive the upper teeth and treat the malocclusion wherein the malocclusion is associated only with the upper teeth wherein the base is made of a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the base is attachable to at least one of the upper teeth of the user via the second material; and

two or more sockets within the base wherein at least one of the sockets is preformed and at least one of the sockets is customized to a shape of one of the upper teeth.

72. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 71 further comprising:

a ~~reline material~~ substance on the base wherein the ~~reline material~~ substance prevents the base from slipping within the mouth of the user.

73. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 71 ~~wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material~~ wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material.

74. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 71 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the upper base is placed in the mouth.

75. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 71 further comprising:

a slot formed along the base wherein the slot has a flat occlusal surface.

76. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 71 wherein at least one of the preformed sockets is sized to receive two or more of the teeth.

77. (Currently amended): A dental appliance which is placed in a mouth of a user having lower teeth to treat a malocclusion, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base which is sized to receive the lower teeth and treat the malocclusion wherein the malocclusion is associated only with the lower teeth wherein the base is made of a

first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the base moves at least one of the lower teeth of the user via the second material;

two or more sockets within the base wherein at least one of the sockets is preformed and at least one of the sockets is customized to a shape of one of the upper teeth.

78. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 77 ~~further comprising:~~

~~a reline material on the base wherein~~ the first material of the base ~~relines material~~ prevents the base from slipping within the mouth of the user.

79. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 77 ~~wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material.~~

80. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 77 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the upper base is placed in the mouth.

81. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 77 further comprising:

a slot formed along the base wherein the slot has a flat occlusal surface.

82. (Previously present): The dental appliance of Claim 77 wherein at least one of the preformed sockets is sized to receive two or more of the teeth.